



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

October 2, 2012

MESCALERO APACHE MAN CHARGED
WITH FEDERAL ASSAULT OFFENSES

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Las Cruces ordered that Anthony John Shanta, 19, a member and resident of the Mescalero Apache Nation, be temporarily detained on federal assault charges pending a detention hearing on Oct. 5, 2012.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Shanta was arrested on Sept. 25, 2012, on a criminal complaint charging him with assault with a dangerous weapon and assault resulting in serious bodily injury. If convicted, Shanta faces a maximum penalty of ten years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine on each of the two charges.

According to the complaint, Shanta allegedly assaulted another Mescalero Apache man on the evening of July 21, 2012, by stabbing him in the neck with a folding knife. The assault allegedly occurred while the two men were arguing while drinking alcohol. The victim of the assault allegedly sustained a five centimeter-long laceration on the right side of the neck that required medical treatment. The alleged assault occurred in a residence located on the Mescalero Indian Reservation.

The case was investigated by the Las Cruces office of the FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Mescalero Agency, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron O. Jordan.

Charges in criminal complaints are only accusations. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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